

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, UNCTAD RP

SUBJECT: UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON COPPER

REF: A. GENEVA 8017, B. GENEVA 8786, C. MANILA 5895

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AGUENZA, HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE SEPTEMBER UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON COPPER, OPENED RECENT DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS BY REGRETTING THE PHILIPPINES FELT OBLIGED TO ALING WITH THE CIPEC GROUP OF 77 POSITION AT THAT MEETING. HE INDICATED THE U.S. SHOULD NOT EXPECT PHILIPPINE SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITIONS IN THE FORTHCOMING COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS. BECAUSE PRESIDENT MARCOS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE AT UNCTAD IV AND COMMITTED THE PHILIPPINES TO SUPPORTING UNCTAD IV CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 93 (IV), WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION ALIGNING WITH THE G-77 POSITION DURING ALL THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS, ACCORDING TO AGUENZA. OBVIOUSLY, AGUENZA LEFT THE SPTEMBER COPPER CONSULTATIONS WITH A GREATER SENSE OF NORTH/SOUTH BI-POLARITY THAN SECRETARY LEIDO FELT AFTER THE MARCH MEETING (SEE MANILA 5895).

2. AGUENZA HIMSELF WOULD PREFER A SMALLER LESS POLI-

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TICIZED FORUM FOR COPPER LIKE THE AD-HOC CONSULTATIONS

CALLED BY CIPEC IN MARCH 1976. HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE FORUM REMAINED LARGE AND POLITICIZED, WITH VERY STRONG POSITIONS BEING TAKEN, THE PHILIPPINES COULD NOT PLAY THE "HONEST BROKER" ROLE IT FORESAW FOR ITSELF IN THE MARCH MEETING. HOWEVER, HE IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE OVERALL OUTCOME OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, AND FORESEES THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COPPER EVOLVING INTO A WORKABLE GROUP AFTER THE EXTRANEOUS ELEMENTS TIRE OF POSTURING. HOWEVER, HE ALSO BELIEVES THE GROUP IS A VERY LONG WAY FROM ANY PERMANENT AGREEMENT ON COPPER. HE HOPES DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN COPPER CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CARRYING OUT THE 26 STUDIES SO THAT THE RESULTS ARE NOT PREDETERMINED, AND REGRETS THAT THE PHILIPPINES WAS NOT ABLE TO FIELD A STRONGER DELEGATION AT THE FIRST EXPERTS MEETING.

3. AGUNEZA NOTED HE WAS WITHOUT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS IN GENEVA AND THEREFORE TOOK THE TACK HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT WANTED. AS A RESULT OF THIS DISCUSSION, EMBOFFS CONCLUDED THERE IS NO SPECIFIC MECHANISM YET ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT A CO-ORDINATED PHILIPPINE APPROACH TO THE FORTHCOMING SERIES OF UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS AS CALLED FOR BY UNCTAD IV. IT APPEARS THE TECHNOCRATS ARE STILL TAKING THEIR CUES FROM THE BROAD POLICY STATEMENT PRESIDENT MARCOS GAVE IN NAIROBI WITHOUT FURTHER SPECIFIC AND DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS.

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